

**Town of Arlington  
Transportation Advisory Committee**

Minutes of 10/25/2005, 7:15PM, Town Hall Annex 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Members present: Joe Cahill, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jeff Maxtutis, Kevin O'Brien, Chuck Pappas, Mike Rademacher, John Sanchez, Scott Smith, Ed Starr

Others: John Maher

1. The minutes of September 27, 2005 were unanimously approved.
2. We reviewed the project list. John Sanchez reported that some work has been done in the Russell Street area. Other actions to be done include the following:
  - Ed Starr will draft a response for Andrews Way
  - Scott Smith will review the 264 Mass. Ave. crosswalk request to see if the Leader Bank precedent applies.

3. Dallin School

Jeff Maxtutis spoke with the new principal of Dallin School (Wallis Raemer) to give her an update on the plan for handling traffic. There will be a meeting on 11/2. It appears that the abutters (owners) of George Street may be in favor of making improvements.

4. Discussion of private ways with Town Counsel John Maher

Major points were as follows:

- Private ways are owned by the abutters. However, people have a right to cross someone else's piece of a private way in order to access their own property. When people have been using a private way for a long time (20 years), there may be an "easement by prescription," where someone gains the right to pass over a piece of property simply because he or she has been doing it openly for a long time.
  - The basic rule is that public entities can't improve private property. Therefore, private way owners are generally expected to pay for improvements. However, it could be argued that the Dallin School construction work damaged the George Street private way, and that having the town pay for repaving would simply be making amends.
  - A rough estimate (from John Sanchez) for the cost of repaving the private portion of George Street and adding a sidewalk was in the range of \$40K.
  - Where an improvement to a private way is in the public interest (examples include George Street by Dallin School, and Thorndike Street near Thorndike field), options include the following
    - o Abutters make the request, and pay for the improvements
    - o Use the betterment act, abutters pay ½
    - o The Town takes the land, and makes the street a public way.
    - o The Town leases the land
- John offered to summarize the options.
- Paper streets are usually owned by the abutters, and the abutters pay taxes on the property. In a very few cases, the Town owns the property.
  - When a private way crosses a public way, the Town does have the right to place traffic control devices within a certain distance of the public way
  - The Town may enforce traffic laws on private ways, and may establish fire lanes.

- However, where two private ways cross, residents could erect a traffic control (such as a stop sign), but it would not be enforceable.

## 5. Downing Square

There has been substantial discussion of Downing Square on the Arlington e-mail list ([www.arlingtonlist.org](http://www.arlingtonlist.org)). The cones on the east side of the crosswalk (by Peter Pan) had also been moved. We agreed that the cones should be replaced with sandbags. Elisabeth Carr-Jones said that we will need to start collecting data for an evaluation. Items include

- Queue lengths
- Pedestrian activity
- The turn between Park Avenue and Lowell Street (towards the Res.)
- Resident opinion.

We agreed that the best time to do this would be early November.

John Sanchez noted that installation of the hump required substantial labor – a crew with Police detail for an entire day. It included the drilling of 12 holes for each 2-foot section.

## 6. Appleton / Paul Revere.

Elisabeth Carr-Jones and Chuck Pappas presented the following recommendations:

- A single stop sign, with stop bar at the correct location where Paul Revere enters Appleton.
  - A stop sign on Florence northbound
  - A warning sign on Appleton eastbound
  - Extend a dotted yellow line on Appleton through the intersection, to further indicate the curve
- Ed Starr asked that Elisabeth and Chuck complete recommendations for Appleton and Paul Revere for next TAC meeting.

## 7. Mass Avenue / Lockeland

Joe Cahill and Jeff Maxtutis indicated the next steps were to obtain traffic counts:

- Turning movements at Mass. / Lockeland
- Automated count near Mass. / Bartlett

They will obtain a quote from a firm that does traffic counts.

## 8. Mass. Ave. Corridor

Kevin O'Brien reported that the Board of Selectmen voted to sign a letter of support. He also suggested that TAC submit a letter of support. We voted unanimously to do this.

## 9. East Arlington Parking Study

Scott Smith reviewed the meetings over the past two months, both with Jack Hurd and with Fire Chief Allan McEwen. He indicated that we should

- Present the results of the study and proposed next steps at a Board of Selectmen meeting
- Distribute a survey to residents of the area, asking for feedback on option.

We voted unanimously to support this process.

## 10. Department News

Kevin O'Brien noted that Symmes has been appealed: this will cause a delay.

John Sanchez reported that temporary paving has been completed on Summer Street, with work near Court / Water streets to be done this fall.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.

### **Handouts:**

Agenda package with agenda, project list, rotation list, outstanding actions, request for 264 Mass. Ave, request for Andrews Way – from Ed Starr

Minutes from September 2005 – from Scott Smith

East Arlington parking materials: a) outline of next steps, and b) brief project report and survey – from Scott Smith

Diagram of Appleton St./Paul Revere Rd./Florence Avenue – from Elisabeth Carr-Jones